

CHANGING THE VISUAL APPEARANCE OF INPUT DEVICES

ABSTRACT

Keycaps of a keypad or regions of a digitizer contain an electrophoretic ink. An
5 electric field is passed through selected regions of the ink to form a desired graphic label
visible at the exposed surface of the keycap or region. In some cases, conductors within
the keypad or digitizer alter the ink. In other cases, the keycaps or regions are placed
proximate a printer that alters the ink, such as to initialize a generic keypad for a given
function. A keypad contains a MOD key to cycle between language-specific variants of
10 a last-entered character. In some cases, the keys are altered remotely to change their
displays, such as to update subscriber service information or advertising.